

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the first paragraph in the section entitled CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS, which is located after the title, with the following:

This Application is related to the following U.S. Patent Applications/~~Patents~~:

U.S. Serial No. 10/342,475, filed January 16, 2003, entitled "BROMINATION OF HYDROXYAROMATIC COMPOUNDS AND FURTHER CONVERSION TO DIHYDROXYAROMATIC COMPOUNDS", ~~new U.S. Patent No. _____ issued _____~~; and

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/650,566, filed August 28, 2003, entitled "BROMINATION OF HYDROXYAROMATIC COMPOUNDS" ~~being filed concurrently herewith under Atty Dkt. No. 134997.~~

Each of these Applications/~~Patents~~ is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

Please replace paragraph [0017] with the following amended paragraph:

[0017] Hydrogen bromide in acetic acid under anhydrous conditions or hydrobromic acid are generally preferred as bromine sources/acidic mediums. Hydrobromic acid may be employed at any concentration, including the commercially available 48% or 62% (by weight volume) aqueous solution. Acetic acid is also frequently added when hydrobromic acid is employed.

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

[0018] The molar ratio of ionic bromide to hydroxyaromatic compound is preferably less than 1:1, to minimize conversion to dibromo and more highly brominated compounds; ratios in the
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range of about 0.2-0.9:1 are typical. However, when elemental bromine is the bromide compound, the molar ratio of Br₂ to hydroxyaromatic compound is preferably less than 1:2, typically in the range of about 0.2-0.9:2, again to minimize the formation of by-products. As disclosed in copending, commonly owned U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/650,566, filed August 28, 2003, entitled "BROMINATION OF HYDROXYAROMATIC COMPOUNDS" ~~being filed concurrently herewith under Atty Dkt. No. 134997~~, one mole of bromine reacts with one mole phenol to generate 1 mole of p-bromophenol and 1 mole of HBr, which then reacts with a second mole of phenol in the presence of oxygen and the catalyst to yield a second mole of p-bromophenol. Thus, use of the catalysts described herein allows consumption of all the bromine employed in the bromination reaction using inexpensive oxygen, such as in air, as an oxidant.